

HUNGER CRISIS IN AMERICA

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, when Americans think about hunger, we usually think about mass starvation in faraway countries. But hunger too often lurks in our own back yards.

In the United States, over 33 million people live in households where people have to skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. In many homes in my State of Oregon, an estimated 720,000 people ate meals from emergency food boxes at least once last year.

Children comprise nearly 40 percent of those receiving emergency food, yet this administration is considering making changes to the verification process for the free and reduced-price school meals that could eliminate more eligible low-income children.

Today, four of my Oregon colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman asking her to reconsider making such costly changes to the system until we better understand the potential consequences of these changes.

It is my hope that the administration will continue to work to remedy the hunger crisis in our Nation without using costly and ineffective measures that will impede our children's access to nutritious and low-cost school meals that they need to grow and learn. I am committed to finding a solution to the problem, and I ask my colleagues to come together and find effective solutions and show that hunger does indeed have a cure.

AMERICA IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, in picking up the USA Today's money section: "Economy: Good News, Prices Tame, Jobless Claims Down." Coca-Cola's earnings up 12 percent. IBM earnings rise 3 percent, will add jobs. Apple swings to a quarterly profit based on back-to-school sales. Intel sees quarterly profits soar. Harley Davidson cruises to record profits.

These are as a result of this administration and this Congress's passing tax relief for American families. The Committee on Ways and Means will be considering additional tax relief for corporations to keep domestic employment higher than it is currently to save jobs in America.

Now, despite the pessimism you have heard from the nine Presidential candidates on the other side of the aisle, we are winning the war both in the economy and we are winning the war in Iraq. I wish the nine people running for the high office of President would be more supportive of this administration,

more supportive of our troops in Iraq, and more supportive of the economy.

America's best days are yet ahead, not behind us; but the other side would lead you to believe the worst is yet to come. Let us be positive. Let us be optimistic. This is a great Nation. We have great opportunities.

SMART DECISIONS FOR A STRONG FUTURE

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the last speaker. America's greatest days are yet to come. But not if we make a bunch of stupid decisions here in Washington.

The great debate today will be whether the \$18 billion going to build Iraq is going as loans or as gifts. But first we will take up H.R. 198, which I know leadership plans to pass by unanimous consent. Well, I will reserve the right to object.

H.R. 198 is being brought up at this time as is a bizarre and inadequate fig leaf designed to say, well, it is okay if we give away \$18 billion of the taxpayers' money, as long as on the same day we make a request that Germany and France renounce the debts that are owed to them by Saddam Hussein.

If we need a Marshall Plan for Iraq, remember, the first step in the Marshall Plan was that Hitler's debts were renounced. Promissory notes signed by Hitler were never paid. And we can make an \$18 billion loan to Iraq if it renounces its Saddam debt.

SOUTH CAROLINA VICTIM ASSISTANCE NETWORK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of the South Carolina Victims Assistance Network led by Public Policy Coordinator Laura Hudson, CEO Veronica Swain, and VIP Director Nicole Goodwin.

This group tirelessly works on the victims of crime that are often forgotten by the public after their trauma no longer merits headlines. The Victim Assistance Network advocates on behalf of all victims and witnesses of crime, establishes a communications network, enhances public awareness, facilitates research and evaluation, serves as technical support, provides quality training, educates and coordinates policy development while encouraging citizen and victim participation.

As we recognize President Bush's Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, I ask all my colleagues to join in support of organizations like the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network. These groups serve as a wonderful example of a community reaching

out with compassion to offer hope to victims of crime.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN FOR OUR SENIORS

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, we most certainly today are going to be making very important decisions concerning the situation in Iraq. But Friday is the self-imposed deadline of the Medicare conference. We all need to make a concerted effort to work towards pushing this important legislation of a prescription drug plan for our seniors through Medicare through this Congress.

This is an opportune time for movement forward to improve our Nation's Medicare system. With the rising price of prescription drugs, preventive care and innovative medical technologies, we need to make sure that our seniors are able to access these privileges. Medicare needs to be reformed now so that these seniors who need assistance paying for prescription drugs will receive it.

I urge my colleagues serving on the conference committee to rise above partisanship so we can deliver to America's seniors a prescription drug benefit. The time is now. We are closer than ever. It is time to deliver the prescription drug plan to our seniors through Medicare.

IRAQI GRANT NO GIFT TO AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today we will be discussing a supplemental which provides \$87 billion for Iraq, \$18.6 billion of that going as a reconstruction package.

The gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) was right when he suggested this is the pivotal decision that will be made today. The American people should pay close attention to what their Representatives are doing and should contact their Representatives if they believe that if we are going to give \$18.6 billion away, it should be in the form of a loan which will be repaid once Iraq, which could be one of the richest oil producing countries in the world, gets back on its feet. It should repay that \$18.6 billion. We should not just be giving it as a gift.

The Rohrabacher amendment insists that it be given as a loan instead of a gift and that it be repaid. And if the Rohrabacher amendment is not permitted, if it is ruled out of order, I will move the next Rohrabacher amendment, which would be to cut that \$18.6 billion from the request. And within a matter of days, the administration will